

## Socha, Julianne

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**From:** Burdett, Cheryl  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2018 11:19 AM  
**To:** Socha, Julianne  
**Subject:** Fw: Notification to EPA of another situation from concerned citizens and limiting CAFO manure pollution

Could you respond to this person about requesting

**"Is it possible that you (EPA) might also request a delay of the CAFO permit approval until the facts can be investigated?"**

**Cheryl Burdett**

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**From:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:11 PM  
**To:** Burdett, Cheryl  
**Cc:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)  
**Subject:** Notification to EPA of another situation from concerned citizens and limiting CAFO manure pollution

Hi Cheryl,

My name is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP). I was referred to by Mark Borchardt, in hopes of getting the EPA Region 5 informed of another citizen action group moving forward seeking clean groundwater. We would like to ask how do we get EPA to recognize additional problems that they need to investigate?

I am a professional/citizen advocate along with Pete Arntsen and Ray Reiser. We have offered, many hours of service to the county, and proposed a Public Health Ordinance to help correct the problem of increasing nitrates appearing in the water sources in Portage County. Most of our work has been adapting work done Mark Borchardt and the eastern part of the state other counties to with differences in soil types finding similar issues.

Instead of moving forward to help solve the groundwater issues, the county continues to move forward with the "same old plan on volunteer nutrient management compliance", that for over 20 years, has not worked as indicated in continued increase of nitrates.

A recent county wide well testing supports these increases. See Portage co. Well Water Report  
<http://www.co.portage.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=16518>

**The Village of Nelsonville citizens, Portage County, District 25 did a great job yesterday with a DNR hearing opposing renewal of the Gordondale Farms CAFO permit. Written comments deadline is in 7 days, June 27.**

**Is it possible that you (EPA) might also request a delay of the CAFO permit approval until the facts can be investigated?**

Below You will see additional happenings in our area Wood and Juneau County Health Departments.

**We would appreciate any information you can share with us**

*Namaste,*

## Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 9:38 AM, Borchardt, Mark <[Mark.Borchardt@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Borchardt@ars.usda.gov)> wrote:

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

I'm sorry I can't make the meeting today or the 21<sup>st</sup>.

For an EPA contact I suggest you reach out to Cheryl Burdette at EPA Region 5 [burdett.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov)

Thank you for all your efforts.

Mark

Updates sent to New Hope and Portage Co. District 25 citizens- By

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

A. This just came out yesterday!

In case you're not on newsletter e-mail list for Saratoga Concerned:

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From: Saratoga Concerned <[contact=saratogaconcerned.com@mail208.atl171.mcdlv.net](mailto:contact=saratogaconcerned.com@mail208.atl171.mcdlv.net)> On Behalf  
Of Saratoga Concerned

Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2018 7:38 AM

## Saratoga Concerned - Important Announcement

6/15/2018

Friends & neighbors,

Yesterday afternoon a joint press release announcing a health advisory was published from **Wood and Juneau County Health Departments** (previous email stated Adams County). The advisory is a direct result of residential water testing completed in the township of Armenia around the Central Sands Dairy and associated farm fields.

41% of wells tested came back as contaminated with Nitrates above the safe standard for drinking water. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN IN SARATOGA.

If you have not had your water tested in the past year, it is essential you do so immediately. In the event Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) starts clear cutting fields, you will need a current baseline of your water condition PRIOR to any actions happening.

Be watching in the next couple weeks for a map associated with proposed Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) fields in our township. Any residents adjacent to, or within close proximity to an identified field who has not participated in previous water testing events should take immediate steps to have their water tested.

Note: The health advisory shared below is in reference to testing done at the County level. Data does not include testing currently being evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If you know residents in the township of Armenia, please pass on this vital information.

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6/15/18**

Contact: Sue Kunferman, Health Officer, Wood County Health Department, 111 W. Jackson Street – 3rd Floor, Wis. Rapids, WI Rapids, WI 54495 (715) 421-8911, [skunferman@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:skunferman@co.wood.wi.us)

Barb Theis, Health Officer, Juneau County Health Department, 200 Hickory Street, Mauston, WI. 53948, (608) 847-9373, [btheis@co.juneau.wi.us](mailto:btheis@co.juneau.wi.us)

### **High Nitrate in Private Drinking Wells**

The Wood and Juneau County Health and Land and Water Resource Departments are working to ensure that all citizens have a source of safe, clean drinking water.

[Mauston, WI] – High nitrate levels have been found in private drinking water wells of some Juneau and Wood County residents near Armenia Township (Juneau County). We urge residents to take the following actions if their well water has a high nitrate level:

- Infants less than 6 months, pregnant women, and women who may become pregnant should immediately stop using the high nitrate water for drinking or preparing foods (infant formula, soup, rice).
- Everyone should avoid long-term consumption of water with high nitrate levels
- It is ok to use the water for activities like showering and household chores.

High nitrate levels are a health risk particularly for children less than 6 months old. Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should also pay attention to nitrate levels. To learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your family

from high levels of nitrate, see the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS') factsheet on nitrate

In May 2018, the Juneau and Wood County Health and Land and Water Departments partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to conduct a survey of nitrate levels in private wells to address drinking water concerns expressed by residents in the Armenia township area.

"So far, we have found that 41% of the total wells tested had nitrate levels above the groundwater standard," said Juneau County Health Officer Barb Theis. "It is important for residents with high levels of nitrate to take immediate action by using bottled water to assure a safe source of water for drinking and cooking." The groundwater standard for nitrate is 10 milligrams of nitrate per liter of water (mg/L) and is the amount of nitrate that can be in the groundwater and be safe for drinking. The percent of wells observed with high nitrate levels, through this survey, is greater than the estimated statewide average of 9% of wells.

Both Wood and Juneau Health Departments and county conservationists are working to help residents understand their water-quality issues, and in identifying long-term solutions other than continued use of bottle water. An educational session is part of the groundwater testing program and will occur once all results are analyzed and mapped.

More information, please contact:

Juneau County Health Department: 608-847-9373

Juneau County Land and Water Resources: 608 847-7221 extn. 114

Wood County Health Department: (715) 421-8911

Wood County Land and Water Conservation : 715 421-8475

DHS' Nitrate Factsheet: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02128.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02128.htm)

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Groundwater

Study: [datcp.wi.gov/Documents/GroundwaterReport2017.pdf](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/GroundwaterReport2017.pdf)

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Thank you for supporting actions and initiatives that protect Wisconsin's precious water and natural resources.

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Saratoga Concerned

Saratoga

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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**B. EPA investigates possible groundwater contamination in central Wisconsin as worries grow** Crews from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency visited central Wisconsin this week to investigate groundwater contamination. The dug test wells to check for the presence of nitrates. Criste Sullivan-Greening, see

**Lee Bergquist, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**Published 8:56 a.m. CT May 4, 2018 | **Updated 2:10 p.m. CT May 4, 2018**

<https://www.jsonline.com/videos/news/local/wisconsin/2018/05/03/epa-testing-groundwater-contamination-central-wisconsin/578951002/>

**C. DNR board approves measure to limit manure pollution in eastern Wisconsin to protect groundwater**

**Lee Bergquist, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**Published 11:36 a.m. CT Jan. 24, 2018 | **Updated 12:56 p.m. CT Jan. 24, 2018**

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/wisconsin/2018/04/03/high-court-sides-attorney-general-let-case-involving-massive-dairy-farm-case-heard-waukesha-not-madi/479223002/>

**D. FYI**

**Nelsonville and DNR Public Hearing Tuesday  
June 19, at 10am: Portage County Annex Building.  
Please attend if possible**  
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**1. What's going on in the Village of Nelsonville?** On April 24, 2018 Nelsonville residents requesting a DNR public hearing, via Petition Including 26 signatures from Village. The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees supported the decision and citizens, made a request for a public hearing regarding Gordondale WPDES permit reissue and got it:

**Gordondale Farms has been questioned and put on public notice  
for The DNR informational public hearing scheduled, this Tuesday**

**June 19, at 10am: Portage County Annex Building.**

To see renewal process and application:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/publicnotices.html>.

**Scroll down and Find requested permit: use WI0062359-3; Click on 291KB and 145KB to see details of proposed plan, it looks like this**

Gordondale Farms Inc.	WI0062359-3	Portage	<u>May 9</u>	reissuance/ informational hearing	<u>291KB</u>		<u>145KB</u>
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**How the DNR Hearing process works follows:**

- With respect to permit comments, **Midwest Environmental Advocates** (MWA) highly recommend submitting both written and in-person comments. DNR frequently limits in-person testimony to several minutes, so additional written comments will allow you to notify DNR of more of your concerns.
- You will have 7 days after the informational hearing to submit written comments on the permit. You can submit both written and in-person comments and often recommend doing so because the DNR may limit in-person comments to just a few minutes.
- The next step is likely for the DNR to reissue the permit, either with or without changes due to public comment.
- There is no set timeline for the DNR to reissue the final permit, but you may want to assume that it will be a short timeframe for your organizing purposes.
- If you submit written and/or in-person comments and provide contact information, DNR will send you notice that the final permit has been reissued.
- After the final permit has been reissued, you will have 30-60 days to challenge the permit. You will need five or more people to file such a challenge. More than 5 people triggers EPA to investigate.

**2. The Nelsonville Village Board will be addressing WPDES permit specifically with a specific request that conditions will be attached to the WPDES permit that starts to protect well water and the Tomorrow River watershed area.**

If you plan to be there to speak/or write a letter contact information Contact

Person: Adam Scheunemann,

Adam

Phone: (715)-214-8576

[adam.scheunemann@wisconsin.gov](mailto:adam.scheunemann@wisconsin.gov)

For more specifics: Review Chapter NR 203 WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION  
SYSTEM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES See Subchapter II — Public Informational  
Hearings for how to behave at meetings and protocol  
[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/200/203.pdf](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/203.pdf)

**E. Note June 21, 2018 @ 7pm Portage County GCAC meeting  
Groundwater committee, Please be aware of new information:**

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*Namaste,*

**Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**